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Amnesty International
International Secretariat
10 Southampton Street
LONDON WC2E 7HF
England

Date: 29 April 1980

LETTER TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - 28 APRIL 1980

'Your Excellency,

I am writing to you to express Amnesty International's concern about serious human rights violations in East Timor which have come to our attention. Amnesty International has received reliable reports that a number of persons who had surrendered to or been captured by Indonesian forces in East Timor have subsequently disappeared without trace and may have been summarily executed. I am attaching to this letter a list of such disappeared persons. Since, in your Independence Day speech of August 1977, you personally offered to persons surrendering to Indonesian forces an amnesty under which their safety was guaranteed, you will certainly also be concerned by such reports. We therefore respectfully urge you to order a full investigation into the present whereabouts of persons who have disappeared after surrender or capture.

'Amnesty International is also concerned about the present position of at least 800 Timorese reported to be detained without trial in prisons in the territory in conditions which, according to information received by Amnesty International, give ground for fears for their health and safety. Amnesty International has learned that these prisoners are severely undernourished and are held in conditions injurious to their health. Amnesty International also believes that a number of persons disappeared after a period of imprisonment following surrender or capture. I would ask for a public assurance from you that their safety will be guaranteed and that they will be treated in accordance with the provisions of Articles 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights governing the rights of persons held in detention. To this end, a speedy and thorough investigation of their conditions would appear to be necessary, and Amnesty International urges that such an investigation be initiated immediately. We are also requesting that you instruct Indonesian forces to ensure the safety of former Fretilin supporters in compliance with the terms of the amnesty.

.../

'In December 1977, Amnesty International appealed to your Government to permit increased access by international observers to the territory of East Timor. At that time, Amnesty International noted reports of killings and other violent acts committed by Indonesian troops against inhabitants of East Timor. We are now therefore urging your cooperation once again in ensuring that the International Committee of the Red Cross be permitted to expand its activities in East Timor so as to include its internationally-recognized functions of tracing missing persons and visiting prisons. Amnesty International would like to take this opportunity to recall the Resolution on Disappeared Persons adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1978 which inter alia calls upon governments "to cooperate with other governments, relevant United Nations organs, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian bodies in a common effort to search for, locate or account for such (disappeared) persons in the event of reports of enforced or involuntary disappearances."

'In the light of the recent reports received by Amnesty International, we appeal to your Government to grant such access as may be necessary to investigate these reports. To assist in all such investigations Amnesty International intends to make the list of persons reported to have disappeared publicly available.

Yours respectfully and sincerely,
Dick Oosting
Deputy Secretary General'

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LIST OF EAST TIMORESE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED AFTER SURRENDER OR CAPTURE

1. ALVES Filomeno
2. ARAUJO Anibal
3. CAVARINO Antonio
4. CONCEICAO Joao
5. DA COSTA Linho
6. DA CRUZ Dulce Maria
7. DOS ANJOS Eduardo
8. EXPOSTO Manecas
9. GUSMAO Antonio
10. GUSMAO Jose Alexandre
11. JOAQUIM Leopoldo
12. JOAQUIM Maria Gorete Alexandrino
13. MONTALVAO Sebastiao
14. QUINTAO Joao Bosco
15. REDENTOR Afonso
16. RIBEIRO Domingos da Costa
17. SARMENTO Joao Andrade
18. SARMENTO Sebastiano Doutel
19. SOARES Joao Baptista de Jesus
20. SOARES Joao Bosco
21. TILMAN Agostinho
22. XIMENES Eduardo